

Amendment(s) to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric, said covering being coated on only the inside thereof with an airtight~~ at least one polymeric material; wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially capable of forming an air-tight seal on the ~~with a limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, said covering configured to have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.~~

Claim 24 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering comprising fabric[,]~~ coated on the inside thereof with at least one polymeric material capable of forming an air-tight seal with a limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, and docking means for attachment of an external device to the said covering, said covering being coated on the inside thereof with said polymeric material; wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially air-tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned configured to have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end~~, said covering comprising fabric, a polymeric material capable of forming an air-tight seal with a limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, and locking means for attaching pads, wherein said ~~covering~~ fabric is coated on the inside thereof with said polymeric material; and wherein said covering is configured ~~to form a substantially air-tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned~~ to have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claims 26-33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (previously presented): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 24, wherein said external device is a prosthetic device.

Claim 35 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 24, wherein the said docking means, comprises one or more of:

a pin, cable, strap, hook and loop type fastener, snap, or buckle.

Claim 36 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 24, wherein the said docking means is incorporated by attachment of an adapter to the outside of the said covering.

Claim 37 (currently amended): ~~The seek~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 23, wherein said ~~fiber-on-end~~ fabric comprises stretchable non-wovens.

Claim 38 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 24, wherein said covering ~~being~~ is

seamlessly coated directly on the inside thereof with a said at least one polymeric material.

Claim 39 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material has a thickness profile such that ~~the polymeric cushioning material~~ is thicker at a said closed end of ~~the~~ said covering than at an said open end.

Claim 40 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 24, wherein said covering is coated on the inside thereof with an uneven distribution of polymeric material, ~~said uneven distribution comprising~~ that results in a thinner posterior middle and upper portion, and a thicker distal anterior medial and anterior lateral portion.

Claim 41 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material is arranged in a ~~recess~~ recessed Achilles configuration.

Claim 42 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 24, wherein ~~the~~ said polymeric material is a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore A hardness of between about 1-20.

Claim 43 (canceled).

Claim 44 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end,~~ said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric and a polymeric material capable of forming an air-tight seal with

the limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, said covering fabric being coated directly on the inside thereof with a said polymeric material; ~~wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially air-tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned~~, said covering configured to have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claims 45-46 (canceled).

Claim 47 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end~~, said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric and coated on the inside thereof with a non-foamed polymeric material capable of forming an air-tight seal with the limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, said covering ~~being coated on the inside thereof with a nonfoamed polymeric material; wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially air-tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned~~ have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claim 48 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end~~, said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric and coated on the inside thereof with a cushioning polymeric material capable of forming an air-tight seal with the limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, said covering ~~being coated on the inside thereof with a cushioning polymeric material; wherein said covering is configured to form a~~

~~substantially air tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned~~ have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A flexible, tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering ~~having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end,~~ said covering having consisting essentially of a block copolymer material capable of forming an air tight seal with the limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, and including a docking means for attachment of an external device to the said covering, and said covering comprises block copolymer; wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially air tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, ~~said covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end,~~ said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric and a polymeric material capable of forming an air tight seal with the limb of a wearer when said covering is donned, said covering configured to have an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, and being made by a process comprising including the step(s) of coating an inside surface of the said fabric fiber-on-end fabric with a melt of said polymeric material; wherein said covering is configured to form a substantially air tight seal on the limb of a wearer when donned.

Claims 51-53 (canceled).

Claim 54 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24,

wherein said polymeric material comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoset elastomer, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 55 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer.

Claim 56 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer and mineral oil.

Claim 57 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises urethane.

Claim 58 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber.

Claim 59 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber and mineral oil.

Claim 60 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises a thermoset elastomer.

Claim 61 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material comprises silicone.

Claim 62 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said fabric comprises fiber-on-end fabric.

Claim 63 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, having a length from closed end to open end of from 10-25 inches.

Claim 64 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material has a thickness varying from 0.150-0.500

inches.

Claim 65 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material ~~comprises~~ includes a biocide.

Claim 66 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material ~~comprises~~ includes a vitamin.

Claim 67 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 25, wherein the said docking means comprises one or more of:

a pin, cable, strap, hook, snap, or buckle.

Claim 68 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 25, wherein said covering ~~being~~ is seamlessly coated directly on the inside thereof with a said polymeric material.

Claim 69 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material has a thickness profile ~~such that the polymeric cushioning material~~ is thicker at a said closed end of the covering than at an said open end.

Claim 70 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 25, wherein said ~~covering~~ fabric is coated on the inside thereof with an uneven distribution of polymeric material, ~~said uneven distribution comprising~~ that results in a thinner posterior middle and upper portion, and a thicker distal anterior medial and anterior lateral portion.

Claim 71 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric cushioning material is arranged in a ~~recess~~ recessed Achilles configuration.

Claim 72 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoset elastomer, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 73 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer.

Claim 74 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer and mineral oil.

Claim 75 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises urethane.

Claim 76 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber.

Claim 77 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber and mineral oil.

Claim 78 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises a thermoset elastomer.

Claim 79 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material comprises silicone.

Claim 80 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said fabric comprises fiber-on-end fabric.

Claim 81 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, having a length from closed end to open end of from 10-25 inches.

Claim 82 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25,

wherein said polymeric material has a thickness varying from 0.150-0.500 inches.

Claim 83 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material ~~comprises~~ includes a biocide.

Claim 84 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material ~~comprises~~ includes a vitamin.

Claim 85 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~of~~ according to claim 49, wherein ~~the~~ said docking means comprises one or more of:

a pin, cable, strap, hook, snap, or buckle.

Claim 86 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 49, wherein said covering ~~being seamlessly coated directly on the inside thereof with a~~ has a seamless polymeric material interior.

Claim 87 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 49, wherein said covering has a thickness profile ~~such that the covering is thicker at a closed end of the covering~~ thereof than at an open end.

Claim 88 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 49, wherein said covering has an uneven distribution of polymeric material, ~~said uneven distribution comprising~~ that results in a thinner posterior middle and upper portion, and a thicker distal anterior medial and anterior lateral portion.

Claim 89 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering ~~for enclosing an amputation stump~~ according to claim 49, wherein said covering is arranged in a ~~recess~~ recessed Achilles configuration.

Claim 90 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said covering further ~~comprises~~ includes mineral oil.

Claim 91 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, having a length from closed end to open end of from 10-25 inches.

Claim 92 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said covering has a thickness varying from 0.150-0.500 inches.

Claim 93 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said covering ~~comprises~~ further includes a biocide.

Claim 94 (currently amended): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said covering ~~comprises~~ further includes a vitamin.

Claim 95 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said fabric comprises a stretchable nonwoven.

Claim 96 (previously presented): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said fabric comprises a stretchable nonwoven.

Claim 97 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said covering is seamlessly coated directly on the inside thereof with said polymeric material.

Claim 98 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material is thicker at said closed end of said covering than at said open end.

Claim 99 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said fabric is coated on the inside thereof with an uneven distribution of polymeric material that results in a thinner posterior middle and upper portion, and a thicker distal anterior medial and anterior lateral portion.

Claim 100 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material is arranged in a recessed Achilles configuration.

Claim 101 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoset elastomer, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 102 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer.

Claim 103 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises a block copolymer and mineral oil.

Claim 104 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises urethane.

Claim 105 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber.

Claim 106 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises rubber and mineral oil.

Claim 107 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises a thermoset elastomer.

Claim 108 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises silicone.

Claim 109 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore A hardness of between about 1-20.

Claim 110 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material is a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore 00 hardness of between about 1-100.

Claim 111 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said fabric comprises fiber-on-end fabric.

Claim 112 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said covering has a length from closed end to open end of from about 10-25 inches.

Claim 113 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material is of a thickness that varies from about 0.150-0.500 inches.

Claim 114 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material includes a biocide.

Claim 115 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material includes a vitamin.

Claim 116 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 24, wherein said polymeric material is a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore 00 hardness of between about 1-100.

Claim 117 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material is a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore A hardness of between about 1-20.

Claim 118 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 25, wherein said polymeric material is a thermoplastic gel composition having a Shore 00 hardness of between about 1-100.

Claim 119 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said block copolymer material has a Shore A hardness of between about 1-20.

Claim 120 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, wherein said block copolymer material has a Shore 00 hardness of between about 1-100.

Claim 121 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 49, further comprising a fabric outer surface.

Claim 122 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 121, wherein said fabric is a fiber-on-end fabric.

Claim 123 (new): A tube-shaped covering according to claim 121, wherein said fabric comprises a stretchable nonwoven.